

# Miscellaneous Cabinet.

NON QUO, SED QUOMODO.

VOL. I.] SCHENECTADY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1823. [No. 22.]

## Original Essays.

We profess to have no direct knowledge of the circumstances attending the evil complained of in the following communication. That there is something of iniquity in the affair, however, we confess ourselves not much inclined to doubt. And, by the way, if our citizens do not feel disposed to see that the due proportion of the state provision be applied to the benefit of the truly needy Africans of this city, let the question be just whispered, ought they not *more generally* and *more liberally* to contribute towards aiding the laudable exertions now making to supply the mental wants of this numerous and shamefully neglected people?

FOR THE MISCELLANEOUS CABINET.

The age in which we live is distinguished by charitable and benevolent institutions; especially those which have for their object the moral and intellectual improvement of the human race. The broad and noble basis of universal benevolence on which these are founded, seems to afford one evidence of their celestial origin, as well as a pledge of their perpetual stability. In selecting objects of beneficence, and in forming associations for collecting the means of it, not only national and sectarian distinctions, but the separating walls of rank and colour, have been disregarded; or, what is more, have been noticed only to enlist public sympathy in favour of the ignorant, the destitute, the degraded and despised. Influenced by such liberal and exalted sentiments, the state of New-York, with a munificence commensurate with her extensive resources, has set apart and dedicated to the use of common schools, a fund of more than a million of dollars.

And now I would entreat the reader to let himself down as gently as possible, from that height where he has been contemplating the operations of benevolence on a grand and extensive scale, in order to take a more contracted and less sublime, yet perhaps no less practical and useful survey of the salutary influence which this act of state munificence is exerting on fit wholoured people of Jay-street and its vicinities. The fact is, that the coloured people of Schenectady amount to some hundreds of use we and these, until the summer past, more enjoyed a shadow of a common school,

(the Sunday school excepted) during the space of one or two years. They are now endeavouring to support a school, with the aid of gratuitous contributions from the citizens of Schenectady and its environs.—Be not frightened, gentle reader; I am not about to solicit charity, but justice only; justice, even in the cold contracted and technical sense of the word; justice, according to the spirit, nay, the letter of the law.

According to the act for the regulation of common schools, the publick monies are to be distributed among all classes of children, with but one exception, which is distinctly stated and the reason assigned; viz. "Indian children who are otherwise provided for by law." Words cannot more clearly express the intention of the framers of that act, that the blacks should participate its benefits, either in a common or a separate school. The latter is certainly more eligible in Schenectady; and I cannot see any peculiarity in the circumstances of this city, which affords the slightest pretext for violating what is justice in other places, by withholding from the blacks the means of education which the state evidently intended to secure to them. I am aware that the legislature has subsequently granted these moneys to the Lancaster school. This is not an act of injustice to those who are allowed to attend that school. To the coloured people it is.—I know not by whose solicitation or influence this act was passed. But probably the agents who procured this favour for the whites at the expense of the blacks, as well as all those who are willing to accept it under such degrading circumstances, have acted not from sinister motives, but without sufficient consideration. Or if any have weighed the nature and tendency of this proceeding, they perhaps feel themselves relieved from the weight of responsibility by the act of the legislature. Yet, in the name of conscience and humanity, I ask, was it merciful, generous, or just, to snatch from the indigent African his slender pittance of legislative bounty, expressly provided for his intellectual wants, leaving him the miserable native, either to disregard the urgent necessities of hunger and cold or else to devote his immortal mind and those of his suffering them to grow up ignorant, uncultivated, and untamed, like the people of the desert, but not, indeed, in the desert, but among a people apparently humane and civilized, many of whom, in disseminating among the destitute in foreign lands, deem it their highest honor

lege, to be fellow workers with the GREAT FATHER OF LIGHT.

Schenectady, Nov. 27, 1823.

### FEMALE EDUCATION.

We have not forgotten our fair readers, nor our promise to continue the subject of Female Education for their benefit; we are happy in being able, this week, to present them with some remarks on this subject from the elegant pen of the lamented Dr. Dodd. His volume of Reflections has just been republished in a beautiful style and pocket size, at New-York, and we take this opportunity to recommend it to our readers.

### MISELLA.

MISELLA was blest, by the great Giver of all good gifts, with a frame peculiarly elegant and pleasing; softness and sweetness dwelt in her countenance; the down of the swan was rivalled by her skin; her shape was faultless; her limbs were finished with the most beautiful symmetry; and her voice was musical as the harmony of the lute. She was taught from her cradle to value this fine person; and her fond and overweening parents fed the soothing vanity with every food which their dotage could supply. Her education was perfectly polite, adapted to set off the graces of her frame, little calculated to expand or improve the more valuable beauties of the mind: her taste for dress was remarkably elegant, her manner of dancing particularly genteel, she excelled much at cards, and few were happier in devising schemes and engaging parties of pleasure. As her voice was charming in itself, so was it improved by art, and aided by the soft touches of the guitar, which she handled with inimitable grace, preferring it to all other instruments, as the attitude in playing upon it is most advantageous for the discovery of a fair lady's gentility.

She very early gave her parent's a convincing proof of the mistake they had made in her education, and of their unhappiness in neglecting to inculcate the principles of religious duty and conscientious virtue; for in her *seventeenth* year, she married a young of inferior rank and no fortune, with the disapprobation of her parents; nay, direct contradiction to their commands. His dress and the charms of his heart; and, unaccustomed to think, she broke through to gratify her romantic pas-

cessive fondness of her parents, to pass over this to welcome their darling

daughter and her husband to their affectionate arms. Accustomed from her cradle to a life of dissipation and pleasure, now that she was free from all parental restraint, she indulged the mad propensity with still greater ardour. From one publick place to another, during the summer, she led her passive husband; during the winter, they lived in all the fatiguing gaiety of town diversions.

A child was the issue of their marriage; but as the *daughter* had been before, so now the *mother* was swallowed up in the woman of pleasure. She sent the little infant to her parents, regardless of its welfare, if she could pursue her beloved gratifications.—The case was the same with a second produce of their conjugal endearments.

My reader will not be amazed, if a life of this kind produced no small difficulties in their circumstances. Her parents, though not very affluent, readily contributed all they could; and, ah! too fond!—fed scantily, and dressed meanly, that their daughter might be clad in *scarlet*, and feast in *delicacy*. It happened very opportunely that her husband, in the third year of their marriage, was called abroad to attend his regiment. Pleasure was her passion; she felt therefore little regret at parting with him. Nor did she live, during his absence, like the *widowed* wife, and separated friend. She followed her diversions with redoubled assiduity; was the life of the ball, the delight of the men, the queen of joy.

But her constitution, tender and delicate, was unequal to the toil; her nocturnal reveries extinguished the rose in her cheek; her laborious life of pleasure induced a consumption. Besides this, with declining health, her character became equivocal, though it is agreed by all she was never *criminal*, in the sense that word is commonly used; but the want of *appearances* is often as fatal to reputation as even the want of *virtue* itself. To exhilarate her spirits, she had frequently recourse to improper means; to renovate her beauty, she had constant recourse to destructive art.

Her parents, who seldom saw her—saw her only for a few passing moments, which she could sometimes, though very rarely, steal from her engagements, to dedicate to the children of her bowels, and to the *parents*, whose only joy, she knew, was in her company.—Her parents, hearing of her declining state, wrote, entreated earnestly, and with tears entreated her, to come to them, and to use all proper means for the recovery of her health. She deigned them no reply; but using what appeared to her the necessary method, she prosecuted at the same time her usual scenes of revelry and joy—she at len-

S. Doty, Esq.  
of Har-



tentiaries, and prisons. During the last year, between 2 and 3,000 families were assisted by our charitable societies—nearly all the individuals were women and children, who would generally have been supported but for the intemperance of their husbands and fathers.—In proportion to tippling-houses is the wretchedness of a city; and any one may open a tippling-house who can pay ten dollars for a license and a little money for liquor.

N. Y. Observer.

*Fifty millions of dollars*, (says a writer) it is calculated, will be spent this year in the United States for ardent spirits—that will be about \$5 for each individual on the average; while our national tax is about \$2! “But,” says a writer, “Fifty millions of dollars lost is but a trifle, a point of vanity compared with the moral influence of intemperance. This immense sum has poured down the throats of about 4,000,000 of men 75,000,000 gallons of liquid fire. A quantity sufficient to supply a constant stream of 8,000 gallons an hour—a quantity which, if collected, and put into a reservoir, would form a small ocean, on whose bosom might be anchored a line of war ship half a mile in length, or, if gathered into a canal, would fill one four feet deep, fourteen feet wide, and thirty miles long.—*Conn. Herald.*

#### SEAMEN'S LIBRARIES.

In presenting a few days since, some account of the proceedings of a society in London, for the benefit of seamen, we noticed a plan suggested, and in part acted upon in that country, for supplying seamen with useful knowledge, by the institution of *libraries* for their benefit. We are happy that the same idea has been started in this country. The example was set by the Franklin 74, and there has lately been furnished on board the sloop of war, *Erie*, a library of this description, containing *five hundred volumes*. It is devoted exclusively to the use of the officers and crew of that vessel, and the best effect will no doubt be produced by it. This is an example honourable to our navy, and especially so to the individuals to whose exertions it is more immediately owing.—Would it not be well were such a library on board every public ship, and every private one? In the former it might be provided by the government as a component item of her outfit; in the latter the interest of the owner presents a sufficient motive, and his wealth a competent means. We say his interest, because we are persuaded that nothing would more powerfully conduce to the improvement

of the sailors, and we are persuaded that a well selected collection of books would decide the wavering choice of many a passenger who dreads the *ennui* of a long voyage. We hope the day is coming when American ships shall not only be noticed for their fine form, perfect equipment, able officers and masterly manœuvres, but for their valuable libraries and intelligent crews. We hope the officers of the *Cyane* will follow the examples before them.

#### LITERARY.

*From the Sandy-Hill Times.*

##### MARSHALL'S SPELLING BOOK.

An attempt has recently been made by the proprietors of Webster's Spelling Book to obtain an injunction against E. F. Marshall, the effect of which would be to prohibit him from publishing and vending his newly invented, and we may add, vastly improved Spelling Book. This application we understand has been refused by Judge Skinner, and we believe very justly too. For, while on the one hand it should be the object of the dispensers of jurisprudence, to punish the first attempt of the plagiarist or interloper to filch from the industrious artist his inventions and improvements; yet, on the other hand, the utmost care should be had that no sordid and selfish considerations be permitted to arrest or impede our present rapid march to perfection in the arts and sciences. In a word, in whatever shape or garb monopoly appears, whether it be in politicks, religion, or in the arts and sciences, no matter what, we say *down with it*. To a virtuous, intelligent and free people, it is

—“a monster of such frightful mein,  
As, to be hated, needs but to be seen.”

*Gazetteer of the State.*—We perceive, by a notice in the Albany Argus, that HORATIO GATES SPAFFORD, Esq. is about publishing a second edition of his *Gazetteer* of this state, to be much improved and enlarged. We have no doubt it will meet with an extensive sale.

*Saratoga Sen.*

#### SPAIN.

The latest advices from Europe indicate that “the agony” is not yet over in Spain.—The king is no sooner restored to his throne, than, under the direction of his Jesuits he commences such a scene of proscription as seems to excite disaffection anew.

#### GREEKS.

A general meeting has been called in New-York, to devise ways and means to aid the Greeks in the righteous cause of emancipation.

## Poetick Department.

*From the London Magazine.*

## THE ROSES.

*Translated from the Dutch of Bilderdijk.*

I saw them once blowing,  
While morning was glowing,  
But now are their withered leaves strewed o'er the ground,  
For tempests to play on,  
For cold worms to prey on,  
The shame of the garden that triumphs around.

Their buds, which then flourished,  
With dew-drops were nourished,  
Which turned into pearls as they fell from on high;  
Their hues are now banished,  
Their fragrance all vanished,  
Ere evening a shadow has cast from the sky.

I saw, too, whole races  
Of glories and graces  
Thus open and blossom, but quickly decay;  
And smiling and gladness  
In sorrow and sadness,  
Ere life reached its twilight, fade dimly away.

Joy's light-hearted dances,  
And Melody's glances  
Are rays of a moment—are dying when born;  
And Pleasure's best dower  
Is nought but a flower—  
A vanishing dew-drop—a gem of the morn.

The bright eye is clouded,  
Its brilliancy shrouded,  
Our strength disappears—we are helpless and lone;  
No reason avails us,  
And intellect fails us,  
Life's spirit is wasted—and darkness comes on.

## MASONICK.

## MASONICK REQUIEM.

*(Part of Job xiv. Paraphrased.)*

Mortal that is of woman born,  
Is of few days and full of grief;  
He springs forth as the flower of morn,  
And withers like the untimely leaf;  
He also as a shadow flies,  
Nor tarries long beneath the skies.

The number of his annual rounds  
Is fixed by fate's unerring power;  
He cannot pass the appointed bounds,  
Nor find repose in life's brief hour;  
Yet other forms their fall survive;  
Though felled the tree, its branches live.

But man expires and wastes away,  
His fleeting spirit goes—ah! where?  
As waters from the shrinking sea  
Dry up beneath the ambient air,  
So shall he sink in Being's deep,  
Nor rise till time itself shall sleep.

*Information wanted.*—The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania having received a communication from the Grand Lodge at Basle, in

Switzerland, requesting exertions to be made to discover the place of residence in America, of an individual named FAKENHOFEN, of a distinguished family in Germany, that feels much interested in his welfare, and has not heard of him for several years; takes this method of requesting any person who may have heard of such an individual, or knows his present place of residence, to give information to

GEO: A. BAKER,  
G. SECRETARY—Philadelphia.

Sept. 20, 1823.

## Humour.

## REVOLUTIONARY ANECDOTE.

In the commencement of the American revolution, when one of the British King's thundering proclamations made its appearance, the subject was mentioned in Philadelphia; a member of congress who was present, turning to Miss Livingston, said, "Well, miss, are you not greatly terrified at the roaring of the British lion?" "Not at all, sir, for I have learned from natural history, that *that beast roars loudest when most frightened.*"

## LEGAL WIT.

The following is a specimen of the legal wit which daily enlivens and relieves the graver labours of one of the Dublin law courts:—Lord——. "As this is a motion about a bridge, I would recommend *abridgement* to my learned friend." Mr. G——. "That, my lord, is an *arch way* of getting rid of the business."

## Married,

On Thursday evening, Dec. 4th, by the Rev. A. P. Proal, Mr. ROBERT M. FULLER, to Miss REBECCA GALLEY, both of this city.

## Died,

On Tuesday morning last, Mr. JACOB MABEE, of Rotterdam.

In Middletown, Ct. a few weeks since, Mr. OLIVER IVES, of the town of Lee, Mass. He graduated at Union College in July last.

## The Miscellaneous Cabinet

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